

Working-Age Population with Disabilities

The month of July marks the anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This Act passed in 1990, guarantees equal opportunity for people with disabilities in public accommodations, commercial facilities, employment, transportation, state and local government services, and telecommunications. The passage of this act brought with it an increased awareness of the need to monitor the situation of people with disabilities. One aspect of this monitoring is the collection of data on the disabled population by the Census Bureau through various surveys. This brief report presents key findings on the status of the working-age population with disabilities nationally and in the District of Columbia. The highlights presented were first summarized by Cornell University who has undertaken the task of producing annual disability status reports for each state using data obtained from the American Community Survey (ACS).

Highlights

The statistics indicate the social and economic status of working-age people (ages 21-64) with disabilities, using data from the 2003 and 2004 American Community Surveys (ACS).

National Highlights

Prevalence: The percentage of working age individuals reporting a disability increased from 12 percent in 2003 to 12.1 percent in 2004, in the US.

Employment: The employment rate of working age people with disabilities decreased from 37.9 percent in 2003 to 37.5 percent in 2004, in the US.

Full-Time/Full-Year Employment: The percentage of working age people with disabilities working full-time/ full-year decreased from 23 percent in 2003 to 22.4 percent in 2004, in the US.

Annual Labor Earnings: The median annual labor earnings of working age people with disabilities working full-time/full-year was unchanged from \$30,000 in 2003 to \$30,000 in 2004, in the US.

Household Annual Income: The median household annual income of working age people with disabilities increased from \$34,200 in 2003 to \$34,300 in 2004, in the US.

Poverty: The poverty rate of working age people with disabilities increased from 23.3 percent in 2003 to 24.1 percent in 2004, in the US.

Supplemental Security Income: The percentage of working-age people with disabilities receiving SSI payments decreased from 15.5 percent in 2003 to 15.4 percent in 2004, in the US.

Housing: The percentage of people with disabilities living in owner occupied housing decreased from 63.7 percent in 2003 to 63.4 percent in 2004, in the US.

Activity Limitation-Employment: The percentage of working-age people with sensory, physical and/or mental disabili-

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ties that report an employment disability (difficulty working at a job or business) increased from 53.2 percent in 2003 to 54.2 percent in 2004, in the US.

Age Distribution: Among people with disabilities, the percentage ages 21-29 increased from 10.3 percent in 2003 to 10.6 percent in 2004, in the US.

Race Distribution: Among people with disabilities, the percentage non-white increased from 25.4 percent in 2003 to 25.8 percent in 2004, in the US.

Gender Distribution: Among people with disabilities, the percentage that are women increased from 51.2 percent in 2003 to 51.6 percent in 2004, in the US.

Education Distribution: Among people with disabilities, the percentage with a Bachelor's degree or more increased from 12.5 percent in 2003 to 12.7 percent in 2004, in the US.

Prevalence Across States: Arkansas experienced the largest percentage point increase in the prevalence of disability among its working-age population - from 17.5 percent to 19.9 percent between 2003 and 2004.

Employment Across States: Vermont experienced the largest percentage point increase the employment rate of working-age people with disabilities - from 46.9 percent to 50.8 percent between 2003 and 2004.

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Government of the District of Columbia

Prevalence Trend: The percentage of working age people with sensory, physical, mental, and/or self-care disabilities increased from 10.6 percent in 2001 to 10.9 percent in 2004, in the US.

Employment Trend: The employment rate of working-age people with sensory, physical, mental, and/or self-care disabilities decreased from 40.8 percent in 2001 to 38.3 percent in 2004, in the US.

District of Columbia Highlights

Prevalence: The percentage of working age individuals reporting a disability decreased from 11.4 percent in 2003 to 10.8 percent in 2004, in DC.

Employment: The employment rate of working age people with disabilities decreased from 38.1 percent in 2003 to 35.1 percent in 2004, in DC.

Full-Time/Full-Year Employment: The percentage of working age people with disabilities working full-time/ full-year decreased from 23 percent in 2003 to 22.6 percent in 2004, in DC.

Annual Labor Earnings: The median annual labor earnings of working age people with disabilities working full-time/full-year increased from \$30,000 in 2003 to \$45,000 in 2004, in DC.

Household Annual Income: The median household annual income of working age people with disabilities increased from \$28,400 in 2003 to \$28,600 in 2004, in DC.

Poverty: The poverty rate of working age people with disabilities increased from 31.3 percent in 2003 to 38.1 percent in 2004, in DC.

Supplemental Security Income: The percentage of working-age people with disabilities receiving SSI payments increased from 17.5 percent in 2003 to 19.8 percent in 2004, in DC.

Housing: The percentage of people with disabilities living in owner occupied

housing decreased from 37.1 percent in 2003 to 34.7 percent in 2004, in DC.

Activity Limitation-Employment: The percentage of working-age people with sensory, physical and/or mental disabilities that report an employment disability (difficulty working at a job or business) increased from 45.8 percent in 2003 to 49.6 percent in 2004, in DC.

Age Distribution: Among people with disabilities, the percentage ages 21-29 decreased from 13.7 percent in 2003 to 11.1 percent in 2004, in DC.

Race Distribution: Among people with disabilities, the percentage non-white decreased from 85.1 percent in 2003 to 84 percent in 2004, in DC.

Gender Distribution: Among people with disabilities, the percentage that are women decreased from 58.1 percent in 2003 to 57.2 percent in 2004, in DC.

Education Distribution: Among people with disabilities, the percentage with a Bachelor's degree or more increased from 17.2 percent in 2003 to 17.6 percent in 2004, in DC.

Prevalence Trend: The percentage of working age people with sensory, physical, mental, and/or self-care disabilities decreased from 10.4 percent in 2001 to 9.8 percent in 2004, in DC.

Employment Trend: The employment rate of working-age people with sensory, physical, mental, and/or self-care disabilities decreased from 39.9 percent in 2001 to 35.7 percent in 2004, in DC.

The statistics presented above indicate the social and economic status of working-age people (ages 21-64) with disabilities nationally and in the District of Columbia. More detailed information on State-level Status Reports are available at www.DisabilityStatistics.org.